



Tattersall's Club Magazine

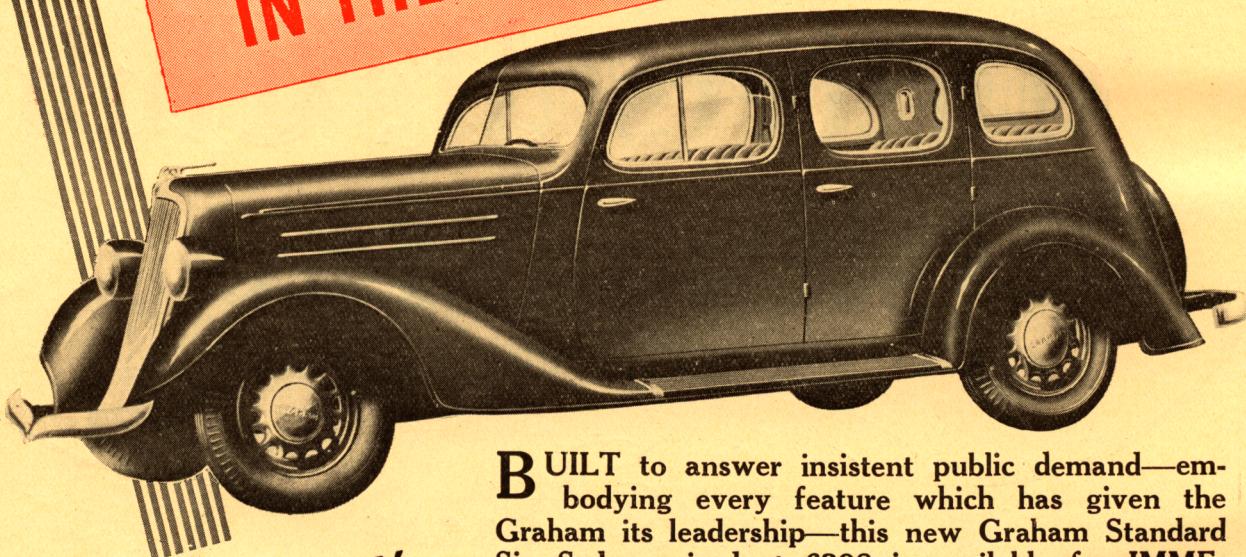
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OF
TATTERSALL'S CLUB
SYDNEY.**

Vol. 8. No. 8. 1st October, 1935



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Tattersall's Club Magazine

The Official Organ of Tattersall's Club, 157 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

Vol. 8.

OCTOBER 1, 1935

No. 8.

Tattersall's Club

157 Elizabeth Street,

Sydney



Chairman: W. W. HILL

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TATTERSALL'S CLUB, which was established on the 14th May, 1858, is the leading sporting and social Club in Australasia.

* * *

The Club House, situated at 157 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, is up-to-date and replete with every modern convenience for the comfort of members, while the Dining Room is famous for the quality of food served and the reasonable prices charged. The Swimming Pool on the third floor is the only elevated Pool in Australasia, and from the point of view of utility and appearance, compares favourably with any indoor Pool in any Club in the World.

* * *

The Club conducts four days racing each year at Randwick Racecourse, and its long association with the Turf may be judged from the fact that Tattersall's Club Cup was first run at Randwick on New Year's Day, 1868.

* * *

The next Race Meeting will be held on Saturday, 28th December, 1935 (The Carrington Stakes), and Wednesday, 1st January, 1936 (Tattersall's Club Cup).

The Club Man's Diary

Whoever wins the Epsom, I must tell you about my Japanese friend, Mr. Toko, whom I met at the Club's 14th September race meeting.

Mr. Debuchi, the Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, was there also, so was Mr. Shudo, the Economic Adviser to the Ambassador, and various other members of the Mission, whose names have been left at the barrier of my memory.

But I should explain, before that, how Mr. Debuchi and his fellow missionaries were guests of the Club at luncheon. The Governor was there, too. And Sir Colin Stephen, members of the A.J.C. Committee, members of our committee, and our chairman (Mr. W. W. Hill), as official host.

It was an enjoyable party. No speeches. Mr. Debuchi, who, up to that time, had attended 250 banquets and delivered 250 speeches, believed that there must be a catch somewhere. It seemed too good to be a safe bet. So did Mr. Shudo, and the rest whose names I cannot spell.

But it was so. All the speeches were made one to the other—Mr. Hill to the Governor on his right, and to the Ambassador on his left; Mr. Frank Underwood to Sir Colin Stephen, and so on, even to Mr. E. P. Andreas and myself, at another table.

I remembered that there was something as regards Mr. Andreas which I had to avoid and so I kept my conversation in scraps until the thought came, as I knew it would—deep sea fishing.

Mr. Andreas always is convivial company, but my principle has been never to draw a man out on his hobbies since once I was cornered in the Big Room by a dominoes player. So we talked on politics, economics, and heaven knows what else.



At the official luncheon on the 14th September. Left to right: His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, Mr. W. W. Hill, Mr. K. Debuchi, Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary.

All the time—I might here interpolate—my friend, Mr. Toko, was planning what to back in the Tramway Handicap. So were members of the Mission. They had come out with a sure thing for the hurdles, The Black Cat. However, it's no use crying over spilt milk.

Mr. Frank Underwood walked away from the luncheon with Mr. C. M. McDonald, minus a pencil. This was awkward as Mr. Underwood had so many winners to tick off. So I surrendered mine which, in previous days, had dotted down the speeches of politicians and comedians, Boy Scout chiefs, parsons, and a post-prandial speech-making tribe too numerous to mention.

En route to the Official Stand, I passed Mr. Parke Pope, Mr. George Cohen, Mr. Lamb, K.C., Mr. George Marlow, Mr. S. E. Chatterton, Mr. Hunter White, and Mr. John Spencer Brunton, all engrossed in the study of their little books—and so I came again to Mr. Toko, previously mentioned.

I gave him what I regarded as the bet of the day—experts notwithstanding—Gay Blonde. Who told me? A New Zealander, without prejudice and, you might claim,

without knowledge. But what about that finish?

Said Mr. Toko: "The name is all right," and walked in the direction of the ring.

Meanwhile, Mr. Leslie Barnett had pulled Lough Neagh out of the sky and Mr. E. J. Tait had conjured up a fancy for King's Head.

Another occasion, and a blonde doll formed part of the table decorations at a function tendered the Japanese mission.

"Oh!" I said to Mr. Toko, "there surely is our Epsom tip—Gay Blonde."

He might have replied in Japanese, but being too polite for that, deferred discussion until after the race had been run.

The Governor and his aides-de-camp thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. Not often now does his Excellency get astride a horse, but there are few keener judges.

Capt. Ponsonby won a jumping competition at Olympia, and Capt. Holford is an ardent polo player. So a betting spill or two doesn't matter.

The Commonwealth Government was represented by Mr. Victor

Thorby, whose knowledge of horses was picked up originally in the hard school—behind the plough.

I thought several of my fancies would have done better in a milk cart, but that's another story. The matter for congratulation is that the meeting was favoured with fine weather, and it was adjudged by very many as being enjoyable, and a focus for the A.J.C. Spring meeting.

* * *

One who will not be there is Mr. Emil Sodersteen, who flew recently to England. Emil, a member of the club, supervised architecturally the alterations which have been commented on so favourably.

* * *

Mr. J. H. O'Dea, a member of the committee, has been confined to a private hospital, and we pass on an assurance of the best wishes of many club friends for his speedy recovery.

* * *

Mr. William Lamrock went off to Adelaide to judge horses at the show. And a good judge, too," as the librettist, Gilbert, put it.

* * *

A portrait of the late General Lamrock on his favourite charger has been presented to the club by Mr. W. J. Frank—a kindly thought, much appreciated.

* * *

The passing of Percy Marks left a sad gap in our friendships, and to his family we extend sincere sympathy.

The Earl Beauchamp has presented to the club a most valuable antique in the form of a piece of plate—this, in his own words, as a small mark of appreciation of the constant hospitality that has been extended to him since 1930. The gift is a priceless sample of the silversmith's art, and the committee acknowledges the generosity of the donor.



SYLVANDALE
Winner of the Chelmsford Stakes, 1935.

English newspapers forwarded to me recently included reproductions of scenes of the King's Coronation. One of the actual Coronation showed Earl Beauchamp among three other nobles standing to the right of his Majesty and denoting a status in the highest stratum of the nobility.

* * *

Birthday congratulations to Mr. James Hackett on the 11th, Mr. E. R. Deveridge on the 21st, Mr. W. H. Cawsey and Capt. J. Bartlett on the 31st.

Mr. Brendan Dowling recently returned from a world tour. While away he attended various race meetings, and was quite surprised to find such great enthusiasm among people of other countries for the sport of horse racing. Nevertheless, he considered that race meetings in Australia are better conducted than those abroad.

During Mr. Dowling's stay in the United States, he availed himself of the facilities of our affiliated clubs, the executives of which did everything possible to make his visit enjoyable.

* * *

Mr. Hugh Frank (Guy) Carter, who died at St. Vincent's Hospital on Friday, 6th September, aged 29 years, was the second son of the late Mr. E. Carter, who had grazing interests in New South Wales and Queensland. He was educated at Barker College, and then went to his father's Queensland properties. Then he undertook a world tour, and on his return, some years ago, was one of the founders of the Australian Wool Brokers' and Produce Co. Ltd., of which he became the chairman of directors. He became a member of Tattersall's Club in 1932, and was also a member of the Australian Jockey Club and of the New South Wales Gun Club. He is survived by Mrs. Carter and two children, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.



This photograph was taken just after the start of the Tramway Handicap. The winner, Lough Neagh, is shown between No. 22 and No. 12.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 7.45 P.M.

Inter-Club Games: Masonic Club v. Tattersall's Club, at the Masonic Club.

*

SATURDAY, 12th OCTOBER, 8.30 P.M.

Race Night Dinner and Dance.

*

WEDNESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, 7.30 P.M.

Complimentary Dinner and Entertainment to the Chairman, Mr. W. W. Hill, prior to his departure for England to attend the Imperial Rugby Union Conference.

*

THURSDAY, 7th NOVEMBER, 7.45 P.M.

Inter-Club Games: Tattersall's Club v. City, Tattersall's Club.



Tattersall's Club Golf Club

Next Fixture

THE LAKES GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER

Stroke Event, V. Audette Memorial Shield

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Billiards and Snooker

Fred Vockler and Hans Robertson Win Annual Billiard and Snooker Tournaments Respectively

Most important happenings in the billiard world of Sydney since last issue, was the Australian Championship, held under the amateur banner. The N.S.W. representative, Les Hayes, once again proved his superiority by winning comfortably from Tom Cleary, of Victoria, in the final. Other contestants were Hughie Titcombe, from Queensland, and Billy Matthews, who is known to many of us as a member of Tattersall's Club, Adelaide. Latter fell by the wayside in the first round, when Cleary had a rather comfortable win. All the same, Matthews was the popular player of the tournament, and simply refused to take the game over seriously.

Next matter of importance was the conclusion of our own club snooker and billiard tournaments. In the three ball game, Fred Vockler took out the major prize money by narrowly defeating J. B. Davis, 250-244, in the final game. Fred came to light with a neat 41 break when the scores read 244-167 against him, and the run really settled the issue. He also ran out with a 21 unfinished effort, hence it may be gathered the touch was right at the right time. But, the winner nearly left his run too late as the score clearly indicates. The loser was only headed with the last stick; however, there is some solace to be found in the emoluments which go to second past the post.

In the snooker section, State champion Hans Robertson proved that being placed on the scratch mark is no bar to progress or success if the eye is in order and with judgment to synchronise. Meeting "Antaeus" in the final stanza, Hans put in a tidy run of breaks, as witness the following, which is the order in which they occurred: First a 21, then 51, 20 and 16, or, a mere 108 points in all, which, ac-

cording to Hoyle, lops lumps off given handicaps. Scores were 143-117 at curtain, and none will begrudge the winner his success..

Maybe, all the more praise is due for victory over one bearing the cognomen of "Antaeus" for be it known that in classical mythology, Antaeus is known as being a Libyan giant, son of Terra and Neptune, fought with Hercules, by whom he was finally vanquished, Hercules holding him in the air away from the earth, whose touch gave him strength, and squeezing the life out of him.

It is not suggested that Hans played the part of Hercules altogether, but the scores show that he put plenty of pressure on scoring proclivities. It is suggested that "Antaeus" appear next year as Anius, son of Apollo, to whom Bacchus gave the power of changing whatever he pleased into wine, corn or oil. The suggestion is not made that members would like to see Hans suddenly become a barrel of olive oil, or a keg of wine, but, bearing in mind the fact of his spending so much of his life in water, it would probably be found that "breaking down" with aqua would be a superfluous operation. In any case, it strikes one as being an ideal way of disposing of an opponent who deigned to go too fast.

Dr. F. A. Genge was defeated by "Oral" in the play-off for third prize in the billiard section, whilst George Chiene was successful against Roy Barmby for number three position at the multi-ball game.

As stated on this page some time back, youthful Horace Lindrum will tilt at the world's best almost at once. He left Australia during the month on board the Strathaird, and is now well on his way to England, and, we hope, glory. He is certain to give a great account

of himself, and has been booked to meet our old friend Joe Davis, who was with us in the flesh just twelve months back. The pair named will meet at least five times during the coming season, and the outing should prove of tremendous benefit to the Australian. All the more pleasing is the news that they will meet at both snooker and billiards. Joe Davis clearly demonstrated here that he has no peer at snooker, but Lindrum is not far behind, and, with the experience gained this trip, might easily return home with the highest honours—the ilk has a penchant for that sort of thing, as Uncle Walter has shown. And, just before closing off these notes, it would be well to bring under the notice of members that during the recent Championship games, the referee brought into being a different interpretation on a very im-



The block depicted above explains why referee W. Carter "fouled" certain players during the recent Australian and State championships, contested in Sydney. The rules require that "only the tip of the cue shall make contact with the ball" but, the experiment made with the cue heavily coated with talc powder produced the result as shown. In one instance is shown the result of a "fair" hit, whilst the other shows a miscue of the type which was fouled. Beyond all question, the side of the cue was responsible for the effect.

portant rule. When a miscue was made and the ball flew off at a tangent, the call was not "one away" but "foul." There is a big difference, as the latter call gives the striker the option of having the balls re-spotted, or played where they lie. Reasons for the ruling; were given and proved logical in every way. The players were quite satisfied, and it would seem that the Australian ruling will soon become world-wide. It will not be the first time this country has had the rule book altered.

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THE ROMANCE OF THE OPAL

A MEMORY OF PERCY MARKS

The enthusiasm of the late Mr. Percy Marks, who was a member of the Club, for the opal was well known. He made presentations of exquisitely cut and set examples to the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke of Gloucester and many visiting notables. He was always prepared to talk about the opal. But probably few people are aware of all the circumstances of his romantic fight on its behalf.

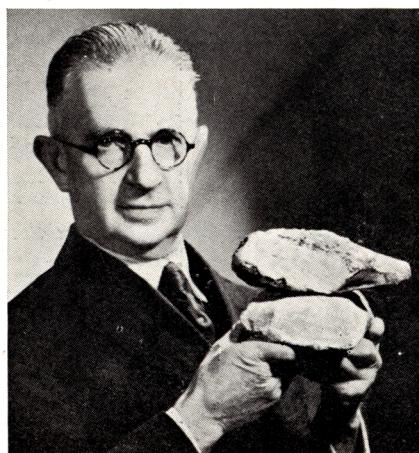
The fight succeeded, and Percy Marks deserves a monument from the people who are engaged in the opal industry. Actually all Australia has benefited, for to-day the sale of opals abroad makes a definite contribution towards balancing Australia's budget.

Up to a few years ago most people definitely thought that the opal was an unlucky stone. Not one woman in twenty would dare to wear it. Even men wore the stone in ring or tie-pin with an air of dare-devilry.

The story of the ill-luck attached to the opal was actually a trade device. A similar one was played by the Swedish Match King, whose financial smash was the sensation of a few years ago. The story that it was unlucky for three cigarettes to be lighted with the same match was widely spread in the papers with such examples (purely fictitious) as that of three members of the French Foreign Legion who, having defied the superstition, were all

shot. By the spread of this myth the consumption of matches was increased by tons of thousands of boxes, to the Match King's profit.

In the case of the opal the beautiful gem was first of all, greeted with acclamation overseas but when the gem traders learnt of the quantities available in Australia, they became alarmed at the effect such a beautiful gem, at a low price, would



The late Mr. Percy Marks, with two of the largest pieces of opal in existence, weighing 9,512 carats and 6,805 carats respectively.

have upon the market for more expensive gems. So they declared that the lovely gem from Australia was unlucky. As such it was proclaimed in the list of birth-stones annually issued by the gem merchants; tales were told of ill-luck following the possession of opals; and novelists, glad of a new theme, used it in

books—"The Opal Ring," "The Black Opal," and "The Opal Pendant" were a few of them.

The superstition was definitely established; the almost prodigal gifts of Percy Marks were part of his campaign against it. When Royalty wore ornaments of opal and remained unharmed, a blow was struck at the prejudice. Marks, who, when he first established himself in the jewellery trade, went to what became Lightning Ridge and dug stone himself, was a lover of the stone, and was determined to obtain acceptance for it. He even made presentations of collections of the stones to twelve leading public schools, so that the children should become acquainted with the gem and learn that the prejudice against it was foolish.

He had virtually succeeded when the depression came to his aid in routing the superstition. Jewellers abroad rather than resisting the progress of the opal, welcomed a beautiful stone which would meet the capacity of depressed purses and keep business going. Scores of Australian travellers, prohibited from taking from the country more than a limited supply of money, bought opals and sold them overseas at a good profit, thus finding a way out of a financial difficulty.

Mr. Percy Marks, who had all-round sporting interests and was a long-standing member of Tattersall's Club, deserves to be held in memory as a man to whom the opal industry owes everything.

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IN THE POOL

Thursday, October 17, is the date set for the opening of the new season and, judging from the inquiries that have been made during the past month or so as to the date of the first race, there is going to be plenty of rivalry for the trophies this season.

There is one thing about our club, the swimmers don't have a long rest, they only finished the last season in July and here they are in action again this month.

For the benefit of new members, we hope there will be many of them, it's quite right that the programmes for the season should be displayed.

Every Thursday a handicap event is held, most of them at 40 or 60 yards, and points are given, three, two and one, for the placed men in the final and one for each starter.

Every four events constitute a Point Score competition, the winner of which receives a trophy to the value of one guinea.

In addition, there is the "John Samuel" Cup competition, contested on a similar point score basis in events at 40 yards Breaststroke, 40 yards Backstroke, 220 yards Free-style (all handicaps), and Diving (scratch). The winner of this series receives a trophy valued at two guineas and the swimmer who scores most points in the three seasons during which the trophy is up for competition takes the Cup.

This is the last season, and at the end of the swimming year the winner will be able to place Mr. Samuel's presentation on his side-board.

All points gained in the monthly Point Scores and the "John Samuel" Cup events are added together to locate the winner of the valuable "John Dewar and Sons Ltd." Cup, which becomes the property of any member winning it twice in succession or three times in all. A replica is given each season.

Alex Richards, with two wins, and Sammy Block, with a win last

season, are well in line for the right to take the splendid trophy home for good.

Although Tattersall's Club will not have any direct representative in the running, members are keenly interested in the coming season, as at its conclusion the Australian Olympic Games team will be selected.

All of the Sydney men who have prospects have been privileged to have some training swims in our Pool, and we can justly claim that we have some hand in any success that comes the way of our young men who do battle for Australia overseas.

During the later months of the Winter there have been a number of these men trailing up and down the Pool endeavouring to lay the foundation of an Olympic victory.

Whether they will be able to follow in the footsteps of Freddie Lane, Andrew Charlton and Dick Eve, the big contests in Berlin next year will tell.

Wins in Olympic events have been few and far between for Australians, though they have generally been in the running, the only other successes in addition to those already mentioned being Fanny Durack, Claire Dennis and the Australian 800 metres team in 1912, Harold Hardwick, Cecil Healy and Les Boardman having New Zealander Malcolm Champion to help them out after Bill Longworth was laid low with serious ear trouble.

It cannot be said that prospects for the coming Games are particularly great at the moment, but champions have a habit of turning up when least expected.

It is not known whether Andrew Charlton will be a starter this season, but it is hardly likely, though his magnificent win over Noel Ryan and Jean Taris in last season's half mile championship showed that he is far from being a back number.

Ryan, who does most of his preliminary work in Tattersall's Pool, appears to be the best of the local men. This season he has changed

The New Season Starts on October 17. Getting Ready for the Berlin Olympiad.

his training methods, and up to a few weeks ago had not entered the water.

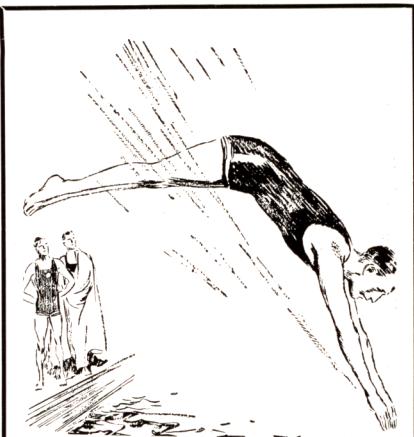
Swimming fans will not recognise the hitherto lightly built champion, for he has deliberately put on weight during the Winter and now scales at over twelve stone.

His idea is that he will have something on which to work, so that he won't be scared of training hard.

Of course, the man in whom our members are most interested is Bill Kendall, for it has been in our Pool that his dad's most interesting training work has been carried out during the past few seasons.

With the 1936 Berlin Games in view, Jim Kendall has worked out his son's training and coaching scheme, and when he won the Australian and N.S.W. Sprint Championships last season in brilliant style, hopes were high that Berlin

(Continued on page 19)



KEEP FIT!



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5.15 to 5.45 p.m. daily

The Paradise of the Tasman

Condensed from The National Geographic Magazine

Hubert Lyman Clark.

On Lord Howe Island, 360 miles east of Australia, there is no problem of poverty; everyone has a home and an income—although no one need work more than a couple of hours a week. This tiny bit of land, seven miles long and a mile and a half wide, provides practically all the "Florists' palms" which decorate hotels, churches, steamships and homes all over the world. The income from the sale of palm seed—which is a public monopoly—maintains the entire population in a unique communal life of unusual charm.

In the early eighteen hundreds, American vessels whaling in the southern seas found Lord Howe Island an excellent place to replenish their water supply. There were no distractions to tempt desertion, and no natives with whom the sailors could get into trouble. By 1840 reports of visiting whalers reached Sydney, New South Wales, and two families settled on Lord Howe Island to grow fruit and vegetables for the crews. Others followed and by 1850 a small community was well rooted on the island. As whaling declined, a business in palm seeds developed, and now supports that community in a practically workless little paradise.

The residents are good, clean stock—homogeneous, healthy and harmonious. The scenic beauty of the island lures visitors, as do the thrilling mountain climbing and the

may be had on the beaches. The climate is delightful, the soil is fertile, and nearly everything which grows in warm, temperate countries can be grown on Lord Howe.



L O R D H O W E I S L A N D

enjoyment of the sea and shore. An unusual feature of the ocean fishing is the bait used—not a worm or any artificial device, but a young bird which nests in great numbers in tunnels dug into the soil of the island. Unsurpassed surf bathing

Residents of Lord Howe are divided into "participants" and "non-participants." A participant is one who shares in the annual division of the island's income from palm seeds. To be a participant one must be a native-born islander, or else married to an islander, and a resident for 10 years. At present the permanent population is about 150, and the number of participants scarcely half that. The non-participant group consists chiefly of non-islanders in various occupations, and people attracted to the island as a delightful place to live. Some of the latter would gladly build homes of their own on Lord Howe, but the Board of Control, which governs the island, wisely foresees that any increase in permanent residents might be a serious burden, since the market for palm seed is limited.

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No one owns any land; the whole

island belongs to the people. The Board of Control assigns land in accordance with the needs and desires of the islanders. Land may pass from one generation to another, as long as it is occupied and used, but it cannot be sold.

If a young man wishes to marry and establish his own home, he notifies the Board of Control, which assigns him a block of land on which to build a home and use for gardens or pasturage. Before erecting a house he must submit plans and particulars to the Board for approval. The islander legally has no claim to the buildings he erects. However, the Board has never yet evicted a person.

The taxation system is unique. Non-islanders who stay for long periods must contribute £5 per annum to the island's funds. Participants in the palm seed industry pay no taxes on property, but those who receive an income from any other source—invested capital or wages from labour not connected with the palm industry—are taxed by the reduction of one share in eight of their holdings in the communal palm-seed industry for all income over £24. This system helps to equalise the incomes of all islanders, and thus prevent any development of classes who might be called rich or poor.

Human nature is very much the same, however, and even in so small and homogeneous a population we find some who are unambitious and others who like to work to improve their condition, and desire luxuries as well as comforts. Life on the island is so pleasant, so relatively carefree and simple that few islanders are willing to engage in work

by the month or week. Hence the proprietors of the two lodging houses, who must have "service," have to secure their help in Australia.

The labour problem is also complicated by rats! About 20 years ago a vessel was wrecked on Lord Howe and rats came ashore. To-day they are a menace and the islanders wage relentless war upon them, aided by their dogs, a breed of short-haired terriers. A bounty of fourpence is paid for each rat tail; sometimes the tails are used for currency. Since the bounty is paid from the community fund, it is not subject to the income tax, and hence becomes a profitable side line. Some diligent rat hunters turn over as many as a thousand rats every quarterly period. When a man wants to build a house, cultivate a field, or do other things which require assistance, he finds that some of his neighbours say: "I'd like to help you, but I'm going after rats this week. Twelve a day will net me four shillings." Furthermore, it is fun to hunt rats!

Transportation on the island is chiefly on foot. Motor vehicles are prohibited, and there are only a few wheeled carts and crude sleds drawn by good looking horses. Social life is simple and pleasant. Bowling on the green, cricket, tennis, swimming in the beautiful lagoon and fishing are the chief outdoor sports. Hospitality and friendliness are universal. There is no gaol or courthouse, no constable, no official who can legally make an arrest. There isn't even a lawyer. Where else in the world is there an inn-keeper who says to his depart-

ing guests, as was said to us: "If it isn't convenient to pay your account before leaving, you may credit it to my account in Sydney next week."

As the palms grow wild everywhere, practically no labour is required for their cultivation. The gathering of the seeds is apportioned. It takes about an hour to gather a bushel of seed. Even if we allow two hours for a bushel, it will mean only 3,000 hours of labour in a year for a group of 30 or 40 men—or about two hours a week. There are no unemployed nor over-employed. Some have finer homes than others, but the difference rests more on the diversity of ambition and taste than on opportunity.

All males 21 years of age have 25 shares in the allotment of income. Women of like age have 10 shares, but on marriage their holding is increased to 25 shares. A married couple will thus have 50 shares when starting their home. For each child born to them they receive 10 additional shares, with a maximum of 35 shares for children. Upon reaching the age of 31, married islanders, male and female receive an additional 25 shares each. If a participant dies or leaves the island for six months, his shares lapse, but a former participant who returns to the island may participate once more after residing two months for every year of absence.

Although there is no doctor on the island, the community fund maintains a resident trained nurse, who is able to handle the small amount of illness and infrequent accidents. It also maintains a teacher.



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Superstitions or Beliefs

Are you superstitious, and, if so, just what is it? Webster gives it sharp and snappy as "belief in the supernatural." But, the subject goes far deeper than the brief explanation would lead one to believe. It would be idle to regard superstition as something trivial, for the Eastern Races believe in many things, as true as religion, which we Westerners consider so much baledash. Question is, can we definitely separate superstition and religion? Friend Webster defines religion as "any system of faith or worship." Seems as though we must approach the matter from different angles—letting the coloured folk do the solemn thinking, while we play about with the many peculiarities of our own people.

It would be idle to shut one's eyes to superstition. We are full of it, and hardly a person exists who has not some idiosyncrasy, or brand of faith, which really is a serious matter, but, will not be admitted to be such. Just apply a few tests and study effects.

How many people do you know who will not walk under a ladder? Watch people going out of their way to prevent such a happening, and you will be surprised at the number. This matter was the subject of discussion of recent date, in King Street, Sydney. In this case, two ladders were put up with a scaffolding between, on which workmen stood to adjust an electric sign. A five-minute count showed that 72 people deliberately walked out on to the road "to get around" to the other side, despite the fact that there was five feet of space on the footpath. They simply were afraid to chance their luck.

There are many men connected with the Turf who consider it bad luck to loan money on a race day, while numberless folk regard the number "13" as the death knell to

prosperity or success. You can hear countless stories of dire deeds that have happened through being fated by unlucky "13." Even hotels, in most cases, dodge the issue by numbering room 13 as "room 12a." On the other hand, some people consider that the "Devil's number" acts as a mascot. But, in every instance, their belief is unshakable. Definitely, it is unlucky to sleep 13 in a bed!

Watch the womenfolk spill salt accidentally, and a moment later in many cases, you will find a pinch of salt being thrown over the left shoulder. They may not believe it, in their hearts, that the spilling will bring misfortune, but they will go through the ritual of "over the shoulder" business, just in case there might be something in it.

Count the people you know who wear a ring or some particular charm for luck. You will find they are legion.

In case you have not heard of this one, take warning and do not walk into a strange house and place a pair of shoes on the table. Bad luck is sure to follow. And, if you cross knives, there are thousands who will assert that a serious row is brewing.

What about black cats? Probably the ebony coloured feline is responsible for more tilts at fortune than anything else. You can find evidence on all sides, with brooches and the like. There's a story behind the story here. Recently the writer was presented with a beautiful black furry creature, and took the precaution of 'phoning the better half to that effect. Over the wire came the words: "If you dare bring a cat here you will have to drown it." The risk was taken and the greeting puss got was: "Oh, it's a black one. Why didn't you say so?" Mind, I am not a scrap superstitious myself. I consider it sheer sham and mockery. Asked

this very day whether or not I had so far escaped the prevailing epidemic of influenza, my reply was: "Yes"—and I touched wood!

It is a rare thing to see a cross-eyed Chinaman, but if such good fortune comes your way, grab with both hands. I did so recently and staked a "fiver" both ways on a horse that just got "pipped" for third. However, I suppose that but for that Chinaman the neddy would have been so far behind that the public would not have been certain whether he was last in that race or first in the one after it.

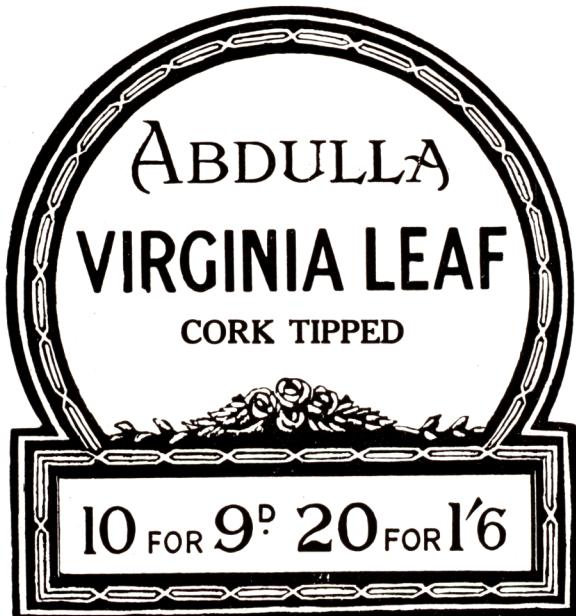
If you see two white horses, be sure and cross your fingers until you see a dog, when any wish you make will be granted—perhaps. On the other hand, be careful never to break a mirror, and do not speculate too heavily if accompanied by one of the feminine sex wearing green. It is also unlucky to drop a pair of scissors on the floor, points downward. Definitely so if your foot intervenes.

"Dream of a wedding and hear of a death!" That's another something to be shunned. You can overcome this by not dreaming.

Don't cross on a stairway. That brings the worst of luck, and never on any account light three cigarettes with the one match. Contrarily, if you don a garment and find it is inside out, leave it. Good luck will follow you all day—again, perhaps.

Opals are considered by many to be jewels of misfortune, and "pearls for tears" is an expression as old as the hills. Likewise, do not open an umbrella in the house, but you can spill all the sugar around the place, or turn your money—if any—over, at New Moon. But, do not look at a new moon through glass. If you wear spectacles, you must positively refuse to have any interest in things

(Continued on page 20)



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An inkling of fair sized order has been going the rounds lately that owners of motor cars will be compelled to take out insurance coverage before the car will be licensed. There is much to commend the idea, for, when accidents occur it is frequently found that the person in the wrong is devoid of money, and, action to recover damages would represent so much expense and wasted effort even in the event of a verdict. Bad luck, too, to be knocked down by a car and be landed in hospital for a few months, together with the knowledge that you can do absolutely nothing and must foot your own bill for repairs of a bodily nature. This sort of thing happens every week, but, before Government action is finally taken, it is highly probable a Bill will be put through the House relative to car efficiency, and that licenses will be withheld when doubt exists as to controllability.

In weighing up the pros and cons, there will be found much to commend the new idea, and it can be taken for granted that the appearance of the new Law on the Statute Book is only a matter of time.

There is no doubt that some action will, in due course, insist upon every motor vehicle used on the roads being in good condition, and the factors to be taken into consideration will be those which affect the safety or otherwise of the car. These factors are tyres, brakes and steering.

There will probably be an outcry when this is instituted, but it will be a most sensible and logical course. The question of tyres is a simple matter, as it can be taken for granted that a tyre from which the pattern has disappeared is unsafe under certain conditions of road surface.

It must be remembered that no matter how efficient may be your braking system, the actual retarding effect comes between the tyres and the road. A smooth tyre on a greasy road has practically no adhesion factor, and the application of the brakes under such conditions may easily send the car out of control. Fortunately, it is seldom that all one's tyres need replacing at one time.

Testing the Steering.

The next factor which affects the safety of a car is the steering. There is certain to be difference of opinion on this, because a person handling the same car day after day knows just what to expect, even if the steering is not perfect, and it may be that an examiner would condemn a large number of cars which the owners themselves handle in an expert and perfectly safe manner. The only thing to do is to take up any excessive backlash—provision is usually made for doing this—keep all joints properly greased, and to see that each tyre is kept inflated at the correct pressure.

If the king-pins are worn or the front wheels do not "toe in" correctly, the steering would probably feel unduly heavy, and this would not please any examiner, as stiffness denotes immediately that something is wrong. So far as correct alignment of the front wheels is concerned, this can easily be checked by means of a piece of string stretched between the edges of the wheel run on a level with the centre of the wheel.

The front edge should be about one-eighth of an inch less than the rear edge. This allows for the inevitable spread of the wheels when

the car is travelling. Dealing with the question of brakes, if it be only a case of adjustment, the great thing to observe is that each wheel is evenly braked. The most prolific cause of skidding is badly adjusted brakes, but actually it is simple to correct, as by jacking up the wheels the effect of adjustments can be carefully noted.

Scored Drums.

If the adjustment has already been fully taken up it indicates that the linings are worn out, or, in the case of a not too new car, that the brake drums are worn. When renewing linings, not a difficult job, it is important to see that the rivets are well countersunk below the level of the material, but do not go to the other extreme so that the rivet passes right through.

In the case of badly scored drums it is not of much use fitting new linings without having the drums cleaned up, as the scored surfaces simply play havoc with even the best of material. It costs little, and is more than worth it. The only cars likely to be barred until they have received expert attention are those of very early vintage, good solid jobs, perhaps, but suffering from general debility. Whatever you do, make absolutely certain that you are covered for the particular purpose for which you use the car, and, when filling in the insurance proposal form, not only answer every question, but be certain to record any conviction, no matter how long ago or however trifling. Failure to observe these points may easily find you faced with a claim which the insurance company will repudiate.

Insurance companies, generally, have a lean time so far as covering motorists is concerned. The general manager of one big company was telling me of a case where the son of a friend of his bought a car for a few pounds and insured it through his company, the cover note being issued on a Friday. On the Saturday he was rung up at his private

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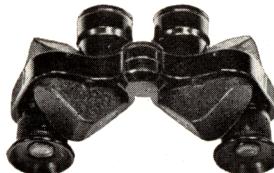
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house. The boy had had an accident, and the car was wrecked. He had skidded into another car. The three passengers in the other car had been taken to hospital, and the company had to meet a claim for £500 on the little affair. It may be appreciated why insurance companies, which receive claims like this every week, are tightening up a bit.

Age Limit Unnecessary.

It will be through insurance

companies that old cars will be driven off the roads, because, unless cover can be secured it will, of course, be impossible to obtain a license. Such a course will be unfair to many owners of cars long past their prime, but yet in serviceable condition. It will, however, be the few suffering for the majority. There is no need to make it a definite ruling that if a car is over a certain age it becomes automatically ruled out, as it would be a simple matter for the companies to

insist on an independent engineer's report.

They might ban cars not fitted with front wheel brakes, a feature which certainly does put the old cars at a distinct disadvantage. It is probable, however, that rear brakes only, if in good condition, are as efficient in relation to the speed capabilities of the car as are the four-wheel brakes on later models which are capable of much higher speeds.

Handball

Now comes the big thing of the initial season of the Handball Club—the first Club Championship.

Club Chairman, Mr. W. W. Hill, has presented a trophy to act as an incentive for the players to put everything they know into their games, and speculation is rife in the Athletic Department as to the eventual winner.

Hot favourite is Tebbutt, than whom there have been few better players on Tattersall's Club Courts.

Sammy Block, who seems to make a success of everything he take on in the athletic world, Pat Herson, John Wilkinson, Lazarus, Eric Pratt and "Billy" Williams, who is reputed to be a dark horse, are all on their toes for the big event.

During last month the club held its second night competition, and

though it was not as well attended as the first, it was again a distinct success.

There were some great games in the competition, and in the semi-finals Block beat Pooley and Wilkinson beat Williams.

John Wilkinson was in great fettle for the final, which he won from Block by 31-29, 24-31, 31-26.

For the "Searcy" Cup, hostilities have ended for this season, but there's plenty of time for the losers to put in their claims for the trophy as the player who scores most points in three seasons takes it.

Sammy Block is on top as a result of this season's games, the final points being:—

A. S. Block (owes 3)	614
E. S. Pratt (scratch)	578
W. A. Tebbutt (owes 5)	552
J. Buckle (8)	547

P. Herson (scratch)	520
A. F. Rainbow (7)	508
W. G. Buckle (12)	482
G. S. Williams (scratch)	480
J. D. Wilkinson (scratch)	446
Z. Lazarus (scratch)	407
A. Gregory (7)	395
C. Godhard (1)	385
J. N. Creer (7)	374
G. Goldie (8)	359
J. Patience (15)	321
F. Chilton (1)	319
C. C. Bastian (7)	172
T. A. J. Playfair (7)	154
J. C. Pooley (7)	129
N. Penfold (7)	126
C. P. Sellards (7)	109
L. Abrahams (15)	106
H. Douglass (2)	102
L. Herron (10)	87
L. Rein (10)	87
K. Hunter (1)	62
H. S. Utz (1)	55

Results Inter-Club Games Competition

5th September, 1935.

Billiards:—City Tattersall's Club won by 3 games to nil.

Dominoes:—Masonic Club won by 6 games to 3.

Snooker:—City Tattersall's Club won by 3 games to nil.

Competition Points to Date.

Points

City Tattersall's Club	17
Masonic Club	16
Tattersall's Club	14
Commercial Travellers' Assn.	9

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES.

Thursday, October 3rd.

Masonic Club v. Tattersall's Club.
Commercial Travellers v. City Tattersall's Club.

Thursday, 7th November.

Tattersall's Club v. City Tattersall's Club.

Masonic Club v. Commercial Travellers' Association.

Commercial Travellers v. Tattersall's Bridge:—Tattersall's Club won by 2,162 points.

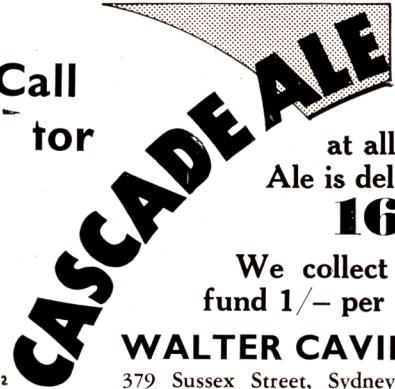
Billiards:—Commercial Travellers' Assn. won by 2 games to 1.

Dominoes:—Tattersall's Club won by 5 games to 4.

Snooker:—Tattersall's Club won by 2 games to 1.

City Tattersall's v. Masonic Bridge:—Masonic Club won by 3,777 points.

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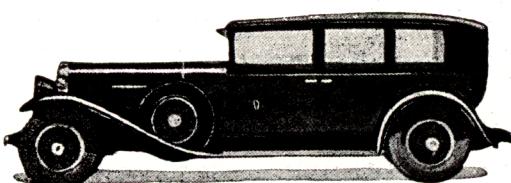
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Slips of the Type

Edmond Pearson in "Vanity Fair"

When, on the death of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt succeeded to the highest office, a New York editor desired to contrast the event with a recent coronation in Europe. But—the compositor, coming to the word "oath" in the manuscript, struck a wrong key and the sentence appeared: "For sheer democratic dignity, nothing could exceed the moment when, surrounded by the Cabinet, Mr. Roosevelt took his simple bath as President of the United States."

Typesetters also omit letters, notably so when a Des Moines newspaper reported of Mr. Witter Bynner, the poet, that he had been "the pot of the evening." Mr. Bynner took it graciously, remarking: "They probably thought it was a recital of chamber music."

Then there is the almost classical story about Bret Harte when a very young editor. He wrote the obituary notice of a most respectable lady, closing with: "above all ladies of this town, she was distinguished

for her charity." This came back from the pressroom: "distinguished for her *chastity*." Instead of making the correction, he merely put a mark of query on the margin of the proof, with this result: "Mrs. McGilligan, above all the ladies of this town, was distinguished for her chastity (?)."

Certain words are a standing peril to the typesetter. A collision between a train and a cow, reported in a newspaper, ended with the remark that the engineer, "putting on full steam, dashed up against the cow and literally cut it into calves." An unfortunate impression was given when a newspaper, reporting a wedding with a double quartet of bridesmaids, said: "The bride was accompanied to the altar by *tight* bridesmaids." The word window has harrassed the editors of all English-speaking countries, but it was nevertheless astonishing to find *House & Garden* remarking casually: "Nothing gives a greater variety

to the appearance of a house than a few undraped *widows*."

When dealing with the printing press, attempts to make a bad matter better do not always result joyously. That distinguished music critic, the late Philip Hale, in an article about a concert by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, wrote: "During the performance of this number, the kettle-drummer sat, like Buddha, regarding his navel." This was printed in the noon edition, and fell under the managing editor's eye.

"What's this? What's this?" he sputtered. "That word must come out!"

"But," he was reminded, "the stereotype is cast. It's on the press."

"Never mind," said the boss. "Get a chisel. Cut it out."

The presses were stopped, the offending word excised. And in all later editions of the paper, Bostonians were enabled to read: "During the performance of this number the kettle drummer sat, like Buddha, regarding his ——."

In The Pool

(Continued from page 9)

would see him shaking up the Americans and Japanese.

What a tough break it was, therefore, when young Bill was laid low with an illness that necessitated an operation, and had him in hospital for many weeks and dropped his weight by stones.

It is pleasing to see that Bill is again indulging in mild exercise in the Pool. He has been going many laps quietly without any attempt to hurry himself along.

Whether he will be fit enough to land a place in the big team time alone will tell, but he is such a model of physical fitness and strength that it will not be at all a surprise if he overcomes his bad luck and gives the records a shake in the next six months or so.

Tattersall's Club members hope so anyway.

Other Olympic aspirants who have been in work in the Pool are Reg. Clarke and Ivo Wyatt.

Clarke was at the last Empire Games in London, but has not shown his best form away from Sydney. Still the experience he has gained abroad must tell its tale sooner or later and surprises may come from him during the season in both freestyle and backstroke.

Another item of interest to our members is the possibility of the British Empire Games being held in Sydney in 1938.

This, of course, would be the biggest sporting festival ever to have been held in Australia if it comes off, for the cream of the Empire's athletes in all branches would be here to battle for the titles.

According to Mr. E. S. Marks, a leading light in the negotiations, and a club member, there is every prospect of the Games being held here, for Canada alone is in against us, and Canada has already had them, in Toronto in 1930, when Noel Ryan won two big swimming events over 400 and 1,500 yards.

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W H I S K Y

Superstitions or Beliefs

(Continued from page 13)

solar. And, here are a few more dont's:—Don't be one of two people to use the same water for washing hands. Don't pour tea from anyone else's tea pot. And, be careful to see that a dark man ushers in the New Year by being the first to cross your doorstep after midnight on December 31.

Communities the world over are in the grip of the past not less than individuals. They go on doing things year after year without a notion, as a rule, why they do them. Is it superstition or religion? Most famous cities, many ancient small towns and villages, have some festivity or solemnity which means very little to the mass of citizens, but which is interesting to all who care to look below the surface of things.

Related customs are the tying of rags to "wishing trees," driving

nails into them, or attaching coins. "When Queen Victoria, during her Highland tour in the 70's, paid a visit to the Isle of Maree, Loch Maree, Ross and Cromarty, she took great interest in the 'wishing tree' there, and amused herself by observing the immemorial custom of 'wishing a silent wish' and having a coin attached by means of a nail." That last bit is a quotation, but the formality is not looked upon as "amusing" by the folk of the part named. With them, it is a very serious matter and a belief.

Again, the belief, not yet extinct in isolated areas, that of certain stones having healing qualities, is referred to by Geoffrey Monmouth, the twelfth century English writer. He tells of the custom of pouring water over the Stonehenge megaliths and then using this water to cure various maladies; "for," he adds, "not a stone is there that lacketh in virtue of leechcraft." The immemorial custom of using certain stones to effect cures is not yet extinct in the Hebrides.

So, one could go on indefinitely,

but sufficient has been told herein to impress on the reader that "beliefs," whilst being imaginary in the minds of one section of people, are very real things with the other. Maybe, you will agree with that contention. Maybe, you will not. But, in any case you cannot hurt me—I have my fingers crossed!

Golf Notes

The outing held at the New South Wales Club on the 25th September resulted as follows:

Club Championship: Won by Mr. C. W. McLeod, junr., with a gross score of 78.

"A" Grade Trophy, presented by Mr. J. S. Blau, was won by Dr. Pittar, 83—12, 71.

"B" Grade Trophy, presented by Mr. E. S. Pratt, resulted in a tie between Mr. E. A. Ireland and Mr. I. Stanford, each with a net score of 70. Messrs. Ireland and Stanford will play for this Trophy at the next outing.

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